(b) if so, the details of representation received; and

(c) the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Government have received several representations from sugar industry demanding increase in import duty on sugar. The demands are for increasing import duty to various levels.

(c) The representations for increasing import duty on sugar are under examination of the Government.

Proposal of World Bank assistance for drinking water projects in Gujarat

2525. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding World Bank assistance for drinking water projects in Gujarat, particularly in Kutch-Saurashtra region is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Opening of Branches of NABARD

2526. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) which were proposed to be opened in the country particularly in Gujarat during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the number of branches opened out of these alongwith their locations, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to open some more branches of NABARD during 1998-99; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not have any branch office concept. It has set up 25 Regional Offices, one Sub-Office and Srinagar Cell at Srinagar. State-wise details of Regional Offices of NABARD are furnished at Statement-I. *(See* below) In addition NABARD has posted District Development Managers (DDMs) in 256 districts in various States as given at Statement-II. *((See* below) During the year 1996-97, a total number of 18 DDMs were posted in various States. No DDM was posted in Gujarat in 1996-97. No DDM office was opened in the year 1997-98.

(c) and (d) NABARD has contemplated to set up 25 DDM offices during the year 1998-99 in different States. Details of DDM offices proposed to be opened during 1998-99 are given in Statement-Ill.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the Regional Offices of NABARD

Sr. No	State/Union Territory	Location of Regional Offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.	Assam	Guwahati
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itnagar
4.	Bihar	Patna
5.	New Delhi	New Delhi
6.	Goa	Panaji
7.	Gujarat	Ahmdabad
8.	Haryana/Punjab	Chandigarh
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
11.	Karnataka	Bangalore
12.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram